

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o DCRA/BLRA · 941 North Capitol Street, NE, Ste. 2000 · Washington, DC 20002

CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM

2003 ICC FAMILY OF CODES

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CODE: IBC

SECTION NO. 3110

SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. C-4

PROPOSING SUBCOMMITTEE: Constr

CHAIR: Fetterman

PHONE: 202/625-2525 E-mail: fetterman-dc@att.net

DATES: OF PROPOSAL: 4/18/05

BCAC PRESENTATION: 4/20/05

BCAC APPROVAL:

CHECK ONE

☐ *Revise section to read as follows:*

☐ *Delete section and substitute the following:*

☒ *Add new section to read as follows:*

☐ *Delete section without substitution.*

TYPE ALL TEXT IN 12-POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT

~~LINE THROUGH TEXT TO BE DELETED~~ (highlight text, under *Format*, click font and check strikethrough)

UNDERLINE TEXT TO BE ADDED

Use additional sheets of the form, if necessary.

(See following pages)

Anticipated impact of code change on cost of construction (CHECK ONE)

☐ *Increase*

☐ *Decrease*

☒ *Negligible*

☐ *Unknown*

If "Increase" box was checked, indicate estimated range of added cost:

Per 1,000 SF single-family dwelling to

Per 1,000SF of commercial building to

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE:

This amendment, continues provisions of existing 2003 12 DCMR and has evolved over time in response to our unique urban environment. Some provisions may be based on existing regulatory statutes.

Policy 4.a. Inappropriate provision due to local conditions (climate, physical, urban planning or economic).

Policy 4.d. Provision that is inconsistent or conflicting with District statute, regulation or policy.

SECTION 3110A FENCES

Add new Section 3110 Fences

3110.1 General. Fences shall comply with the requirements of this Section, other applicable Sections of this code and other municipal regulations. This Section applies to fences back of the building line. All barbed wire and similar fences shall comply with the requirement of Sections 3110.4 and 3110.4.1. Fences on privately owned land beyond a building restriction line shall comply with the requirements for fences on public property and permits for such fences shall be obtained from the code official.

3110.1.1 Fence walls. Fence walls shall conform to the requirements for fences.

3110.1.2 Screens or trellises. Screens or trellises shall conform to the requirements for fences.

3110.1.3 Height measurement. The measurement of the height of a fence shall be made from the top of the fence to grade, on the side of the fence where grade level is higher.

3110.1.4 Permit applications. Applications for permits to erect a fence shall be accompanied by an official building plat upon which the proposed fence location is indicated. Approval by the Zoning Division of the Department shall be required before a permit shall be issued.

3110.2 Party fences. Only those portions of the length of a fence, including footings, which are partly on each side of a party line shall be considered as party fences. Permit applications for party fences shall be signed by the owners of the properties on which the fence is to be located.

3110.2.1 Fence materials. A party fence shall be a wood, woven wire, or iron fence of open pattern unless otherwise agreed upon by the adjoining owners.

3110.2.2 Height agreements. Where owners propose to erect a party fence over 7 feet (2134 mm) in height in Residential Districts or 10 feet (3048 mm) in S-P, C, C-M, or M Districts, written agreement to the height by the owners of the properties on which the fence is to be located shall be filed with the code official before issuance of a permit.

3110.3 Other fences. Fences other than party fences shall comply with Sections 3110.3.1 through 3110.3.5.

3110.3.1 Fences abutting streets. Fences abutting a street shall not exceed 7 feet (2134 mm) in height in Residential Districts nor 10 feet (3048 mm) in height in S-P, C, C-M, or M Districts.

Exception. Wing walls attached to a building or forming part of the fences may exceed the above heights for that portion removed from party lines the distance of a side yard for a building, as required by the current Zoning Regulations.

3110.3.2 Fences abutting alleys. Fences abutting alleys shall not exceed 7 feet (2134 mm) in height in Residential Districts nor 10 feet (3048 mm) in S-P, C, C-M, or M

Districts.

Exception. The code official is authorized to approve a greater height where the alley is 15 feet (4572 mm) wide or more.

3110.3.3 Fences near party lines. Fences within a strip 10 feet (3048 mm) wide and parallel to the party line shall not exceed 7 feet (2134 mm) in height in Residential Districts nor 10 feet (3048 mm) in S-P, C, C-M, or M Districts. Fences shall not obstruct light or ventilation for any required window.

Exception: Where the written consent of the adjoining owners is filed, the code official may approve a greater height.

3110.3.4 Fences distant from party line. Fences more than 10 feet (3048 mm) from a party line, alley, building or building restriction line shall not be limited as to height, provided such fences do not encroach on a required yard or court, nor obstruct the light or ventilation for any required window.

3110.3.5 Gate height. Gates shall not exceed the height of the fence.

3110.4 Barbed wire and similar fences. No barbed wire or similar fence, barrier, or obstruction, made thus in whole or in part, shall be erected, constructed, or maintained, along the building restriction line, or in or upon any street, alley, road, or other public walk, driveway, or public or private parking in the District of Columbia.

3110.4.1 Barbed wire and similar fence on private property. A barbed wire or similar fence, barrier or obstruction may be erected wholly on private property when located in back of the lot line or building restriction line if one exists. The minimum height of the lowest strand of barbed wire shall be 6 feet (1829 mm) above adjacent ground and the wire shall not project beyond the lot line or building restriction line.